

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a system for processing a plurality of data units stored on a storage medium, the system adapted to process a sequence of the data units in accordance with one of a plurality of playmodes [[[PMs]]] comprising standard, random and programmed playmodes, the method comprising the steps of:

(A) playing back a sequence of data units according to one of the plurality of playmodes during a PLAY mode of operation, wherein

(B) providing to a user, during the PLAY mode of operation, an opportunity to select another one of the plurality of playmodes, the plurality of playmodes including a standard playmode representing a default sequence, a random playmode representing a random sequence and programmed playmode representing a sequence specified by a user, without interrupting playback of a current sequence of data units, and

(C) in response to user selection of a new playmode, changing the playback sequence of the data units in accordance with the newly selected playmode.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein step (B) comprises the step of generating an on-screen display overlaid onto a video display which allows the user to select one of the plurality of playmodes while continuing to watch the playback of the data units in a background portion of the video display.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein step (B) is preceded by the step of determining whether a mode of operation enabling selection of one of the plurality of playmodes during the PLAY mode of operation is enabled; and

performing steps (B) and (C) only if the mode of operation enabling modification of the plurality of playmodes during the PLAY mode of operation is enabled.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining whether user modification of a playmode is enabled is preceded by the step of determining whether the system is in the PLAY mode of operation.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein:
the system comprises a DVD player and the storage medium comprises a DVD disk;
the DVD disk includes a plurality of chapters; and
the plurality of playmodes represent respectively different sequences of chapters.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein step (B) comprises the steps of:
determining the maximum number of the plurality of playmodes which may be performed with the storage medium;
determining which of the number of the maximum number of the plurality of playmodes are actually possible with the storage medium;
generating an on-screen menu displaying the maximum number of the plurality of playmodes, and which of the maximum number of the plurality of playmodes are actually possible .

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein step (B) further comprises, after the generating step, a step of allowing the user to select from among the plurality of playmodes actually possible on the storage medium.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, step (C) is preceded by the step of allowing the user to select whether the newly selected playmode will be effective for all future playbacks or only the current playback.

9. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for processing data units stored on a storage medium according to a particular playback sequence, the apparatus comprising:

playback circuitry for accessing and processing data units stored on the storage medium during a PLAY mode of operation;

a user control device for receiving user input; and

a control unit, coupled to the playback circuitry and the user control device, for conditioning the playback circuitry to activate the PLAY mode of operation and process the data units in a particular playback sequence in response to user selection of one of a plurality of playmodes, wherein

the control unit provides to a user during the PLAY mode of operation an opportunity to select from among the plurality of playmodes, the plurality of playmodes including a standard playmode representing a default sequence, a random playmode representing a random sequence and programmed playmode representing a sequence specified by a user, without interrupting the PLAY mode of the playback circuitry, and, in response to user selection of a new playmode, changing the playback sequence of the data units in accordance with the newly selected playmode.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising an on-screen display control coupled to the control unit, the on-screen display control providing a menu representing the plurality of playmodes allowing the user to select one of the plurality of playmodes while watching a playback of a current sequence of data units in a background portion of the video display.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the control unit determines whether a mode of operation enabling selection of one of the plurality of playmodes during the PLAY mode of operation is enabled; and provides an opportunity to select a new playmode without interrupting the PLAY mode only if the mode of operation enabling modification of the plurality of playmodes during the PLAY mode of operation is enabled.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the playback circuitry comprises means for accessing and processing data from a DVD disk and the storage medium comprises a DVD disk, wherein the DVD disk includes a plurality of chapters; and the plurality of playmodes represent respectively different sequences of chapters.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein control unit is adapted to determine the maximum number of the plurality of playmodes which may be performed with the storage medium, to determine which of the number of the maximum number of the plurality of playmodes are actually possible with the storage medium, and to provide an on-screen menu displaying the maximum number of the plurality of playmodes and which of the maximum number of the plurality of playmodes are actually possible.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the control unit provides an on-screen display to allow the user to select whether the newly selected playmode will be effective for all future playbacks or only the current playback.